

Hurst Life

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Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #20: Nov. 2016

Free
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yourself!

Hurst Village Cinema listings

p.35

What Christmas Street Party?

p.5

Festival round-up

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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

Here in this, our November, issue we have something for everyone!

Turn straight over the page for news of the traders' big idea for Christmas - **Santa's Fun Sunday** - coming up on 4th December. It will be a street party with added Santa and snow by the sound of it!

Nic Stenning brings us news from this year's AGM of the St Lawrence Fair Committee - now to be known as **Hurstpierpoint Village Fair**. Read the reasons why on **page 6**.

We are packed with news throughout this magazine from award-winning pubs and vets to news of this year's **Remembrance Parade (page 25)**.

On **page 20** we celebrate and review what a fantastic time was had by all at **Hurst Festival**, which closed just as our last issue was published. **Charlotte Snook** gives us the round-up and we share lots of great photos from the popular annual event.

As usual **Belle Amatt** bring us some culinary delights - turn to **page 22** for muffins that might actually be good for you!

Helen Baugh talks to **Deb Hollywood** in our **Village People** feature on **page 30**, revealing just what makes a mum in her 40s try to get a book published.

Many residents will know **Steve Whitehead** - but maybe you didn't know the kind of detail which our brief encounter interview - **5 minutes with...** - gets to the bottom of! Read the parish councillor's answers on **page 33**.

For those who like to be entertained - there's a chance to win a family ticket to **Holiday on Ice** on **page 34**, plus **David Saitch** shares this month's film calendar for **Hurst Village Cinema** on **page 35**.

And last, but not least, it is a pleasure to welcome our newly appointed **editorial assistant**, Hurst resident **Michèle Copeland** on page 15, who takes over from Deb.

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NEWS

We love to hear from groups, organisations and individuals about what's happening locally. Include a photo if you can. Email your stories to editor@hurstlife.co.uk

Wood is Sussex Champion

The Under 18 Badminton Championships were held at Brighton University Sports Centre at the end of September, and Hurst resident Thomas Wood joined boys from all over Sussex to compete for the singles title. Wood, who only turned 15 in August, won his box of five without dropping a game.

After winning his quarter final match he then came up against the number one seed in the semi-final. However, Wood playing the best badminton of his career drew applause from the crowd in winning through to the final.

The final against Sam Sahami of Brighton was a fiercely fought match, but Wood won in two games to be hailed as Sussex Boys U18 Singles Champion for 2016.

Well done Thomas!



Pet shop pops up

Following on from our article on the High Street fire, Lee and Andrée Tite are on the move again.

After a month at The Cookshop, using space kindly given by Dave and Nicki Sharp, Pierpoint Pet Supplies will be based at Washbrooks Farm, in a pop up shop in the car park. Lee and Andrée are grateful to all at Washbrooks and look forward to seeing customers new and old at the temporary shop which opened last month.

Christmas Fair

Get a head start with your Christmas present shopping at the Hurstpierpoint Christmas Fair.

It will be held on Friday 25th November (6.30-9pm) and Saturday 26th November (9.30am-1pm) in the Village Centre, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint.

The Fair is organised by Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club and features over 30 stalls. Admission 50p includes tea/coffee, children free.

More details: hurstchristmasfair@yahoo.com

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Christmas is coming to Hurstpierpoint

Hurstpierpoint Traders are planning a series of special events in the run up to Christmas in the village.

The first will be Santa's Fun Sunday on 4th December. The High Street will be closed to traffic between 1-6pm as the traders and residents host a family day for Christmas shopping and festive fun. Amongst the celebrations will be a Father Christmas Grotto, Elsa from Frozen, an Open Mic on the Green, Hog Roast, Tombola, Snow Machine and a huge Christmas tree.

Gill Blackburn, chair of the traders group, is organising the event and would be grateful for assistance from other residents to make the day go smoothly. She is looking for volunteers to be Stewards and First Aiders on the day - could this be you? They also need contributions to the charity cake stall (mince pieces, cakes, biscuits) too. If you can help in any way, or would like to have your own Street Stall on the day, please contact Gill Blackburn at Ashley & Thomas, 54a The High Street or call 07748 630 316.

All proceeds on the day will be donated to Hurstpierpoint's very own charity: Cancervive. Please do come and support the Traders.

In addition, Hurstpierpoint's shops will be open late nights on Thursdays 8th, 15th and 22nd December until 8pm, to offer our customers the opportunity to discuss the perfect retail experience here, in your village, and parking is free!

Thursday 15th December is a special Prosecco Night in Hurstpierpoint, when shops will be giving a free glass with every purchase too!

Hurstpierpoint Traders Present

Santa's Fun Sunday

Sunday 4th December 13.00 -18.00pm

Hurstpierpoint traders are organising a Christmas extravaganza in your High Street, a shopping and fun day for all the family. Please come along and enjoy a High Street without cars! There will be a festive atmosphere with shops, cafés, wine bars and pubs open.

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A Fair by any other name

By Nic Stenning

Last month the AGM was held for the Village Fair. Thank you to those people who came along. We weren't packed to the gills but it was nice to see some villagers, trophy winners and stall holders come along to support the committee.

The first part of the evening was to hand out all of our Thank You's and all of the cups and trophies that were won at each of our events and competitions. We moved on to discussing the 2017 Fair with calls for some ideas for a Theme. We didn't have any immediate ideas - we would love some suggestions from the village. If you have an idea, think about how 'wide' it is - our procession floats, traders windows, stalls decoration and Teddy Bears Picnic activities are all based around it, so we need to give everyone the broadest spectrum to let the imaginative juices flow. Additionally, we would love to hear from anyone who has any ideas for arena displays, fundraisers or really anything that you can contribute ideas-wise.

Moving on to some goodbyes - we said farewell to two committee members. Firstly Emma Warner, who has served your Village Fair for nine years as bookings co-ordinator and fair history buff. Next we say goodbye to Paul Mileman, who has been our Health & Safety guru for three years and has really brought the execution of this role forward in leaps and bounds.

Our current co-chairs, Rachael Babister and Tara McHale, are standing down but still staying on the committee. We proposed, seconded and duly elected new co-chairs Gary Thomas and Phil Willoughby.

Nic Stenning remains as secretary but is handing over Kids Events to (hopefully) a new committee member. If you are interested in any of the roles that are now free please get in touch. The roles will not be difficult to pick up as the present incumbents have left comprehensive manuals and guidelines for you to follow. In addition, until nearer the Fair weekend you can fulfil most of the roles off-line with no need to attend the meetings.

Each month we try to update the village with our news through Hurst Life. We could do with someone who can

do this for us and additionally publish some articles in other publications.

So just to re-cap, the roles are PR/Publications, Bookings Co-ordinator, Health & Safety and Kids Events. Please get in touch if you feel you can offer your help.

Next to come was our Treasurer's report from Neil Constantine and Hazel Biggs, both of whom joined the committee this year and took on the challenge that is our accounts!

They have done a great job, and the coffers, although not overflowing, are certainly looking healthy. We do have a bit of work to do to ensure we have enough money for 2017 but we look forward to letting you know about fundraising events soon.

With this in mind, this year we have decided that we can make a donation to a cause. The committee has unanimously decided that it will donate £500 to Lee and Andrée Tite to help them rebuild their Pet Supplies Business in the High Street and wishes them lots of luck and love.

You may have noticed that we have referred in this article to the Village Fair. The Fair has had lots of different names over the 700 years it has existed. We know that the name of the Fair often gets confused with the wonderful St Lawrence CEP School Fair by traders, advertisers and villagers. We have proposed, and agreed, that we will be changing the name of the Fair from this year to Hurstpierpoint Village Fair, we hope that you agree that this is a great name which does exactly what it says on the tin (sorry Ronseal - blatantly pinched with pride!).

All that is left for us to say is a massive thank you to everyone who helps us out at our Fair events throughout the year. We are a small but merry band and could not do this without you and your support so here's to 2017's Hurstpierpoint Village Fair - see you there!

To get in touch with us you can still use our stlawrencefair@gmail.com, please send us your offers to help, join the committee, ideas for a 2017 theme and fundraisers ASAP!

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Congratulations to Castles Solicitors

By Deb Hollywood

There are only a few Hurst High Street premises that the same business has occupied for 40 years, and Castle Solicitors is one of them.

John and Branwen Castle will be known to many locally as their fields of work are commercial property and wills and probate, respectively. John worked for another firm of solicitors at 118 High Street prior to starting Castles Solicitors on the 1st November 1976 (originally known as J R Castle & Co.).

John and Brannie have two children, Nicholas and Lucy. Once the children were old enough Brannie resumed her legal career, joining John at work. In 1976 their offices were located on the ground floor of the west side of the building. The other side housed Rowland Gorrington Estate Agents, with the remainder as flats. Gradually, over the years, as John and Brannie acquired the whole premises, they have converted it into office space, but the building still has a sense of its original purpose, a house, with the entrance firmly in the middle with bay windows either side.

Setting up on his own, John found himself fully immersed in village life. Their original desire to live near the sea was quashed by the beautiful countryside surrounding Hurstpierpoint. They moved from Hertfordshire to St Christopher's Road, delighted to have work in such close proximity to home.

An opportunity to build their own house took them for a while to Plumpton. Neighbours included Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page, who owned Plumpton Place which abutted the bottom of John and Brannie's garden. High profile neighbour or not, their work was in Hurst, their friends too, and so, after five years, they moved back to the village. Kent's Farmhouse is a grade II listed building in Malthouse Lane, and it's clear that John and Brannie enjoyed making this their family home for 25 years. In downsizing, they haven't moved far as they are still in Malthouse Lane!

Nicholas and Lucy, who no longer live in the area, are fortunate that they are able to return to their home



village with their own children. John and Brannie clearly enjoy family life, and when not working Brannie spends as much time as possible with their grandchildren. John's interests are varied and he serves as a Trustee for Hurstpierpoint Cottage Trust, Phillipson Ditchling Trust and Weald Tennis Club. John also follows football, and his five-year-old grandson was recently heard saying: "When I'm with grandad I like Arsenal, when I'm with Daddy I like Liverpool, but really... well, I like Chelsea!"

Brannie agrees with John when he says: "We are looking ahead optimistically to the future years with our current team."

Hurst resident Laura Karpinski is a partner at the firm. There are three paralegals, Lochana, Chantelle and Lawrence. And the legal team is supported by office manager Kristina and secretary Frances.

November will be busy! It's clearly a key month for John and Brannie as they will also celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary on the 20th!

There are plans for the whole firm to celebrate Castles Solicitors longevity in the run up to Christmas. Forty years on it's well earned!

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Chris Chatfield, Managing Director of Compass Travel, said: "I am delighted to have reached a mutual agreement with the Sussex Bus to continue these routes as part of our expanding network."

All the Sussex Bus routes have been taken over with effect from Saturday 1st October 2016. Apart from just one change to Route 33 Saturdays, routes and timetables will be unchanged. Monthly/weekly tickets issued by the Sussex Bus will be accepted by Compass until expiry. More info: www.compass-travel.co.uk

Chair needed for monthly social club

The Hurst Afternoon Club is looking for a new chair to lead its committee. It is a small community group, which has been running for some 45 years and aims to provide monthly social meetings for its members.

Meetings are held once a month at Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, Trinity Road.

Duties of the chairperson involve: planning programme of meetings and speakers, producing agenda items for committee meetings, publicising group meetings and producing posters, ensuring the group is acting legally and safely, leading and developing the committee, increasing membership and raising funds as necessary.

The committee currently consists of a secretary, a treasurer and three other committee members.

For more information on what is involved, or for an informal chat, please call Pam Mitchell on 01273 831705 or email pam.mitchell@plusmail.plus.com

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Local vet wins Women in Business Award

Hurstpierpoint-based veterinary clinic Heath Vets has recently won a 2016 Sussex Women in Business Award.

These respected awards seek to highlight the best women in business or the best businesses owned or co-owned by women and stretch across the whole of Sussex.

Heath Vets beat the tough competition to win the Contribution to the Community Award due to its dedicated hard work and community events which are at both local and wider community level.

Practice Manager Sarah Solomon says: "We are all ecstatic to have won this award, it's just amazing! It shows just how much my staff dedicate to their work with our clients and their pets, they are all exceptional and I'm very proud of them all. We had a thoroughly enjoyable evening at the event last month and would like to thank the organisers, and the judges of course, for choosing Heath Vets!"

Amongst others, this year's community-based projects have included:

- A 'Vet of the Future' campaign with local schools. Heath Vets spoke to students about the various potential career paths in veterinary care and invited submissions from students. The winner was Emily Appaya from St Paul's Catholic College, who spent the day shadowing senior vets working in all areas of the practice.
- As part of a Women in Business initiative, several of the staff attended Manor Field School to encourage the children to think about women working in science-based fields.
- Heath Vets hosted a free 'Be Dog Smart' event in partnership with Dogs Trust. Talks were given to people from the area on how to interpret dog behaviour, also training tips and advice on introducing dogs and children.
- Heath Vets is very much part of the communities it serves of Burgess Hill and Hurstpierpoint. It took part this year in the Burgess Hill Festival, organising, as part of its 10th Birthday celebrations, a mass dog walk, which was attended and enjoyed by the Burgess Hill Town Mayor. Over 50 dogs took part and a local pet photographer took action shots of the event. A percentage of the proceeds of the photographs she took went to Shoreham Dogs Trust.
- The Hurstpierpoint Village Fair is one of the oldest fairs held in the country. Heath Vets organises and sponsors the popular annual Pet Show, which is growing year on year.

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L | **LEADERS**

Michèle Copeland takes editorial role

By David Tingley

It's a pleasure to introduce Michèle Copeland to you, our new editorial assistant on the magazine.

Michèle has lived in the village for the past three years, having first heard about Hurstpierpoint through her involvement in the twinning project with French town St Martin de Boscherville - from the other side! Michèle, although born in London, has spent a good deal of her life on the continent occupied with - among other things - her family, teaching English and the Alexander Technique and running a small publishing house near Paris.

Michèle's role at Hurst Life will be to keep in touch with everything that is going on in the village, respond to enquiries from readers and write feature articles for our pages on a monthly basis.

If you have an idea for a story, or just want to say Hi, then do please send an email to us at editor@hurstlife.co.uk - where she will happily respond.

Among other things, we would love a few residents to complete our 5 mins with feature (it literally



takes five minutes max!) and also any suggestions for our Village People feature - where we meet and tell someone's story in more detail following an interview. Don't be shy! Most of us love to learn more about folk in our communities - and Hurstpierpoint is packed with so many fascinating individuals; you've all got a story to tell. It's not about being famous or a public figure! Give us a tip-off about your neighbour or best mate.

Michèle commented: "I'm really looking forward to meeting more local people and also getting stuck into writing again."



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England Rugby star visits college

England and Harlequins full-back Mike Brown visited Hurst College to train and share his knowledge and experiences with pupils on Thursday 29th September.

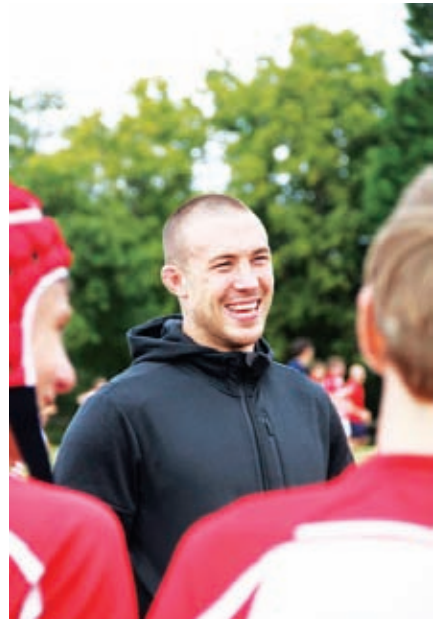
Mike spent the afternoon with each of the school's rugby squads, from Prep school through to the 1st XV team. Many of the teams had the memorable and inspiring opportunity to be able to play alongside him as he joined in with some of their conditioned games.

Mike spent some time having a question and answer session, where he answered questions about his career as a rugby player and gave advice on training and conditioning to an eager and captive audience.

He was invited to the College by his former England and Harlequins teammate, Jordan Turner-Hall, who has been newly appointed at Hurst.

Director of Sport Rob Kift was delighted with the impact Mike made on the day. "The day was a brilliant opportunity for our boys to meet someone at the top of their game and hear about his experiences. Mike is a well-known figure to our students and for many of them he is someone they look up to. To be able to meet him and play alongside him was an inspiration for the players as well as our coaches."

"Mike's arrival at the College is part of a growing association between Hurst and the Harlequins, and it is hoped that such visits will be mutually beneficial for the College and the club going into the future."



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The Bull team wins best pub award

Owner of The Bull in Ditchling and Joint MD of Bedlam Brewery, Dominic Worrall was overwhelmed last week when The Bull in Ditchling was crowned Great British Pub of the Year 2016 at the prestigious awards ceremony held in London last month.

On a night where it was stressed that pubs are an integral part of today's society in Britain, Dominic fully appreciates the efforts of his outstanding team within his rural Sussex community. "I am totally overwhelmed! Words cannot express how extremely proud I am and this is an enormous accolade to the outstanding efforts from Molly our GM and her dedicated team. That, combined with the amazing loyalty of the customers who support us, makes The Bull the incredibly unique pub it is today."

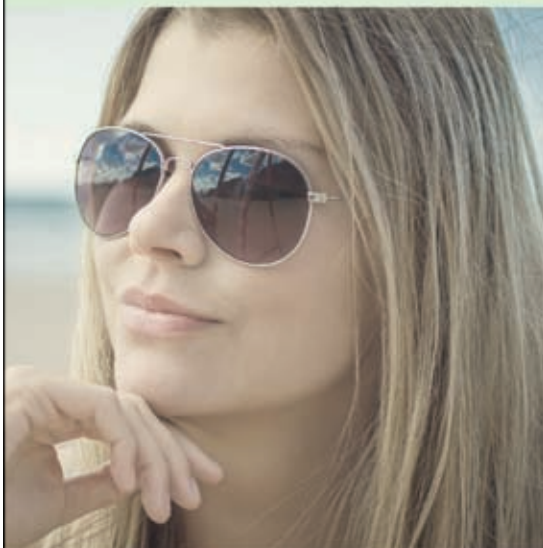


Charity gets lottery cash

reMEMber, the Hurst/Hassocks charity for people with ME, is delighted to announce that it has received a grant of £5000 from the National Lottery under its Awards for All scheme. Janice Kent says: "This is wonderful news, but that money is for a new, improved website, for much needed IT equipment and producing a new information booklet for patients, carers and doctors. However, we are still in need of funds to directly help patients."

reMEMber's next fundraising event will be a concert by the Lou Beckerman quintet called 'Songs of Love, Lust and Longing' at Danny House, Hurstpierpoint, on Saturday 12th November (7.30pm). Lou, who lives in Hassocks, is a singer and guitarist.

Tickets (£15) for the concert are available from Marcus Grimes, High Street, Hurstpierpoint, or by post from reMEMber, PO Box 1647, Hassocks BN6 9GQ, email me_cfs@hotmail.com or call 01273 831733. Cheques payable to reMEMber.



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Christmas party season at St Lawrence School

By Michelle Brownrigg

Come and get yourselves in the mood for the Christmas party season at St Lawrence's very own pop-up pub and live music night, from 7pm on Saturday 26th November.

Affectionately known as The Laurie, for one night only, this pop-up pub and live music venue will open its doors just for you.

Featuring a pop-up Thai restaurant courtesy of The Purple Carrot Cafe, craft beer and lager from local breweries: Dark Star and Bedlam, alongside prosecco & fine wine from BBS Wines of Ditchling.

There will be live music from the amazing Tim Hodges. Rising star Talulah Ruby will be serenading us with her dulcet tones, and Hurst's very own Superstar duo Kieran Murray & Syd will be providing their own spin on some of our favourites. Followed by some dance worthy beats to keep all those dancers amongst us happy, from local DJs Emma Warner and Simon Marks.

With something to suit everybody, even those who don't venture far from the sofa in the local pub, this is definitely a night not to be missed, as well as a chance to help the kids swim all year round. The event is being held at the school to raise money to contribute towards the school's bid to install an indoor cover to the pool. Similar to the one pictured, it is hoped that the space will be used by both the children and the community all year round.

Tickets are £10 and are available from St Lawrence School, Morleys Wine Bar and Vanilla on the High Street. Make sure you come with an empty tum. The Thai is amazing!



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Festival over for another year, planning for next...

HURST FESTIVAL 2016



By Charlotte Snook

September already feels like a long time ago but we have lots of warm memories from Hurst Festival 2016 to see us through these winter months!

We've had some great feedback from this year, including a few who said it was the best ever. We can't ask for more than that, so thanks for all the wonderful comments and to all those who bought tickets or helped out at our 80 plus events.

This year we tried to increase the diversity of the programme, and we hope we achieved this. Of course the music events will always be at the heart of the Festival programme but there is so much other talent in the village, young and old, that needs to be highlighted. And this is not just artistic talent but aptitude in other pursuits, particularly rural ones that reflect our location in the Sussex countryside.

Super Saturday – a party for the whole village

Hurst Festival kicked off this year with Super Saturday, a day of free events across the village aimed at families. Lots of people braved the cold to enjoy our Treasured Transport parade of old and interesting vehicles, many owned by Hurst residents. Highlights of Super Saturday were the wonderful Barulho Samba band getting the party started on the village green, the reptile display and brilliant Wishworks puppet shows performing their own hilarious versions of classic fairy tales. We have our fingers crossed for warmer weather next year.

Reflections art exhibition

2016 is the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and our free art exhibition in Holy Trinity Church reflected this theme. The exhibition featured work from local artists and was an incredibly moving experience. War poetry from Vanessa Gebbie was brought to life with glass art by Elizabeth Lamont, photography from Rev Jane Willis, letter engraving by Helen-Mary Skelton and murals from residents at the Dene in Goddards Green.

Sheepdog demonstration and rural events

This year saw us branch out further into rural pursuits with our first ever sheepdog demonstration at Danny House. It was a fascinating day as local shepherd Rob Moore talked us through training a sheepdog puppy to showing off a fully trained dog. Our pig-rearing talk by Caroline Telfer was as popular as ever. We also saw two new events run by the team at Wild Wood Fun; Badger Watch and Family Forage. Both were a great success and we hope to repeat something similar next year.

Musical highlights

The musical standout this year has to be Hurst's resident composer Fraser Trainer and his band Between the Notes. Their genre defying improvisation night at the Players Theatre was said to have blown the minds of many audience members! Mike Hatchard, jazz pianist and raconteur, gave a great evening in the intimate setting of Lamb House and it all went off at the Irish Ceilidh in the magical setting of Albourne Estate. Look out for more musical innovations next year!

And finally...

We can't review this year's Festival without mentioning a few other standout events. Max Somerset, magician, went down a storm (and escaped from a padlocked sack!), as did the comedy events with a level of talent that Edinburgh Fringe would be proud of. And of course we have to thank Hurstpierpoint College for their continued support and wonderful events that they host.

As a community Festival, we're always looking at ways in which we can broaden our appeal to the whole community, so suggestions are always welcome. We've started planning our programme for 2017 so, again, any ideas gratefully received.

We will also be starting a search for a new chairperson for 2018 so if anyone is interested, please contact us on info@hurstfestival.org. Here's to 2017!



Photos from a variety of sources including official photographer James Carey



Longevity Muffins

FINE FOOD

Ingredients (makes 12 muffins)

300g self raising flour
 1tsp baking powder
 150g caster sugar
 1tsp ground cinnamon
 1tsp grated fresh ginger root
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2 eggs
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 50g grated beetroot
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Belle Amatt is a Hurst resident and nutrition consultant, author and lecturer in Naturopathic Nutrition. She holds workshops and talks on a variety of healthy eating topics.



These muffins have autumnal flavour, they are warming and wholesome!

During the Hurst Festival I ran two Longevity Nutrition events at which we enjoyed these delicious muffins containing high anti-oxidant ingredients. As important as the ingredients involved was the social setting; sharing food in good company, we decided, is key to good health at any stage of life.

How to:

1. Preheat oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas Mark 6.
2. Line a muffin tray with 12 cases.
3. In a large bowl sift together the flour, baking powder, caster sugar, cinnamon and ginger.
4. In a separate bowl mix the milk, eggs, oil and grated beetroot, squash and carrot until well combined.
5. Pour the dry ingredients into the wet and mix until just combined.
6. Divide the mixture between the 12 cases.
7. Bake for 20 mins or until well risen and firm to the touch.
8. Remove from the oven and allow to cool for 5 mins before transferring to a wire rack to cool fully.

(Adapted from a Good to Know recipe)

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College offers school places to BN6 residents

Hurst College is offering up to two fully funded school places for children to join Hurst Prep School in Year 7 in September 2017. The Award is offered from Year 7 through to Sixth Form.

The BN6 Award is available to academically able boys and girls currently in the Year 6 age group, who will make a contribution to the life of the College, academically as well as through extra-curricular activities such as music, drama or sport.

Children applying for this means tested award must live in the BN6 postcode area or be attending a state-maintained primary school in the BN6 postcode area.

The Award was launched in 2015 after an Endowment Fund was set up at Hurst College. The aim was to provide assisted places for academically gifted children who would flourish at the College but who could not attend without some major financial support. As Hurst College has had close ties with the local community for more than 150 years, it seemed fitting that the beneficiaries of this fund should be local children.

Further information about the BN6 Award can be found at www.hppc.co.uk/Prep-School-Scholarships or by contacting Christina Treadaway, Prep School Admissions Officer, at Christina.treadaway@hppc.co.uk or by phone on 01273 836927. The closing date for applications is 25th November 2016.

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Remembrance group formed

A new community group has been formed to cover the entire Mid Sussex area.

This voluntary organisation will promote Remembrance, Education & Development over the coming five years, hosting Military History based events, talks and activities. Mid Sussex RED (MS RED), is a not-for-profit event planning group of 'amateur' military historians who care passionately about the preservation of remembrance, education and development of Mid Sussex residents of all ages.

MS RED will host a First World War Remembrance Exhibition & MS RED Launch Event on Friday 11th November at the King Edward Hall in Lindfield, between 7pm & 9pm that evening. Numerous charitable and not-for-profit organisations will be in attendance with a variety of related displays including a mini museum of WWI memorabilia and artefacts and guest speakers.

The website – www.midsussexred.co.uk – will be continuously updated regarding the exhibitors and activities taking place at this event. Please email tickets@midsussexred.co.uk with your ticket requirements (£2 adults, £1 aged 11-17, under 11's FREE with a pre-booked ticket).

Hurstpierpoint Remembrance Parade - 13th Nov

By Trevor Evans Parade, Marshal Royal British Legion

This years Remembrance Parade will take place on Sunday 13th November. The parade will form up at 10.35am at South Avenue and march to the War Memorial.

If wet we will assemble in the Army Cadets Drill Hall which is behind the Co-op in the High Street.

Everybody is welcome to participate.

I have been advised by Sussex Police that they are no longer able to provide assistance for the road closure and traffic. Traffic management is a major part of the proceedings and without the help of the Police it means that we are going to have to look at hiring in a company to undertake this task.

I would ask motorists driving in the village on that morning to be aware that they may be held up for a short period whilst the parade takes place.

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Hope for families

By **Deb Hollywood**

After meeting Naomi McBain to chat about the charity Hope, I awoke the next morning with a Diana Ross song going round and round in my head. The lyrics of 'Reach out and touch somebody's hand, make this world a better place if you can' stayed with me as did Naomi's passion for her work.

Hope charity was founded by Naomi four years ago, evolving from The Sanctuary Community Toddler Group which has now been running in Hurstpierpoint for nine years. The group looks to build the wider community whilst supporting and nurturing individual and family lives in ways that are relevant. It was seeing the forming of friendships over coffee and cake, the juggling of adult conversations along with keeping an eye on playing toddlers and the nervousness of some in attending, that Naomi knew that there was so much more that could be offered.

Hope charity has four projects, including The Sanctuary. Another, Family Matters, offers non-judgemental, encouraging support to any family member. Naomi stresses this: "We don't have all the answers but we are a listening ear. We can help find the appropriate support if needed."

Naomi explains that the scheme isn't for families that might be perceived as being in need but all families and can be taken up as a one off session or tapped into on an ad hoc basis over a period of time. It allows a community to become an extension of existing family networks.

Community is the key word here, and this can be seen clearly in one of the other projects, the Sparkle groups. These are for mums of any age and aim to offer peer group support through a sense of belonging. Naomi says: "I could see that, even in a place as friendly as Hurst, there were people who seemed isolated, who struggled to engage and form friendships in their peer group." The Sparkle group acknowledges that for some, larger groups and life can be difficult. The meet ups are self-run and supported by Naomi and a volunteer. The group, who are all women, meets weekly allowing time to be taken out from the routine aspects of family life. This can be as simple as sharing a coffee, listening to a guest speaker, baking or trips out to places of interest. From this relaxed environment Naomi has noticed that attendees, after a period of time, are able to share long-term issues in their lives or their sense of loneliness. As a result some have been able to move on into work and studies.

The Playtime project focuses on fun! It is nomadic in the sense that it taps into existing coffee mornings or toddler groups. Naomi says: "Parents and carers are often too busy to play and this group aims to strengthen family relationships through sensory play." She is excited that this project will soon be starting monthly sessions at St Edwards Church in Burgess Hill.

Playtime groups are run by local volunteers who ensure that a community encourages support within itself. Naomi tells me that it's her Christian faith that lays the foundation for all the Hope projects. "Religious faith is not a prerequisite for attending any of the groups," she makes clear. "They aim to offer non-judgemental acceptance. It's about loving people where they are, not dragging them up to where we think they should be."

Naomi's personal hope is that the charity will grow to offer nationwide support. "I would love to see change, restoration and reconciliation. Basically, families mended."

I wonder how Naomi finds the time, energy and passion for such a vision. She responds: "It's a privilege to be trusted enough to be allowed to help, a real pleasure."

Naomi recognises that the charity sector is as competitive as any and adds: "Additional support, either from volunteers or financial, is always welcome so that we can continue to grow and encourage a community to support itself where needed."

Hope is also the brainchild behind the Sensory Father Christmas Grotto held at Mabel's Emporium in Burgess Hill. This year it opens on the 3rd December, then every Thursday, Friday and Saturday for two weeks. Naomi laughs when she says: "It's so much more than a visit to Santa! We offer winter-themed sensory play and everyone is welcome to stay as long as they want."

"In previous years Toddler Groups and schools have come to us for their seasonal outing. It's a joy to witness the children's and adult's excitement!"

For more information about the charity or how to donate you can contact Naomi on 01273 832178 or naomi@buildinghope.org.uk or search Facebook for 'Hopebuildingconfidence'.

Helen Baugh

VILLAGE PEOPLE

“My first book was published in my late forties. It’s never too late!”



By Deb Hollywood

The recent Hurst Festival certainly showcased, again, the variety of local creativity we have here on our doorstep.

Children’s author Helen Baugh took part in Loud Literature, giving feedback to aspiring young writers in an event which celebrates reading aloud. This is something that resonates with Helen, who as a child appeared reluctant to learn to read. “My mum was puzzled because she knew how much I loved books,” she commented. “It turned out I thought no-one would read to me any more if I could read on my own! Once that misunderstanding was cleared up though, there was no stopping me.”

Helen’s rhyming picture books are for children up to the age of six or seven. If you are a parent or grandparent of children this age, you may well have found yourself reading from *The Witch with an Itch*, its sequel *Dragon v Dinosaur*, *Rudey’s Windy Christmas* and *Giant Jelly Jaws and the Pirates*. Or you may have attended Helen’s local reading events in bookshops, schools or at Hurstpierpoint Library.

Helen’s childhood featured many library visits. She is a keen supporter of library services and says passionately: “I think we’re really lucky to have a library in the village. You can order virtually any book from a library, so it’s like a portal to a whole universe of books!”

Helen’s journey from reader to children’s writer has not been direct but circumnavigated other roles and life events. Helen moved from Brighton to Hurst 11 years ago with her husband Andrew and two daughters, Jemima and Maddie. She worked previously as a full time copywriter, a field of work she’d entered at the age of 22. Although always surrounded and fuelled by a love of

words they belonged to the briefs and agendas of others. It wasn’t until 2010 that Helen was able to seriously think about writing stories for children.

A post-redundancy holiday, with good friend and fellow local author Charlotte Raby, finally gave Helen the impetus and time to put down on paper ideas that had been ruminating since her eldest daughter, Jemima, was a baby.

On returning home, she submitted the resulting story to Random House Children’s Books. Although an editor told Helen that they couldn’t publish this title, for various reasons, he liked her style and asked her to write another. And so, in the spring of 2011, *The Witch with an Itch* was born.

The publishing process can be lengthy and it took until August 2014 for this title to finally go on sale! During the wait Helen continued to work as a freelance copywriter and acquired a publishing agent. It was the latter that led to a second publishing deal, this time with HarperCollins Children’s Books. *Rudey’s Windy Christmas* and

Giant Jelly Jaws and the Pirates are now out in the UK and North America, and a friend of Helen’s sent her a photo of the latter title on a Barnes & Noble bookstore shelf in New York. “It was exciting to see!” she adds. “It’s also really lovely when someone tweets a photo of children laughing whilst having my books read to them!”

Although Helen still works ad hoc as a freelance copywriter, she has also started carrying out school workshop visits and her delight is evident. “The feedback has been amazing. Several times I’ve been told that children who had not previously enjoyed reading or



writing have now got the bug, which is wonderful."

In spite of these successes Helen is not resting on her laurels. She is currently working on a new story and has her fingers crossed that it will be accepted for publication soon.

For Helen one of the delights of being a published author is working with talented and creative illustrators. Deborah Allwright – of The Night Pirates fame – and Ben Mantle have both made Helen's work come to life visually. Helen says: "I've been really lucky with the illustrators, both chosen by the publishers, for my work."

It's apparent that the whole road to being published is quite precarious. Helen submits her work electronically, and once the send button is pressed, the waiting begins. Helen says ruefully: "There is every chance of rejection, which can be difficult. But reading about other writers' rejections and long roads to publication in The Children's Writers' & Artists' Yearbook makes you realise you just have to keep going."

Another challenge faced by most authors is the amount of time they spend alone. To counter this Helen works one day a week at a close friend's home office, for both company and the opportunity to share ideas. She has written on beaches, in the garden, even in bed, in fact anywhere it's quiet! In the main however, she writes at home, mostly in her spare room or at the kitchen table. Initial ideas are written with pen and paper but she uses a computer thereafter.

I wonder how Helen is able to compartmentalise her work. "When deadlines are involved – whether for copywriting work or for a publisher – they have to take priority. But there's usually plenty of space in between deadlines when I can work on new story ideas," she says. "There have been some memorable occasions when deadlines have clashed and it's been stressful to get everything done on time, but thankfully that's rare these days. And now that Jemima and Maddie are older and at Downlands, I have more time to write than when they were younger."

Helen says that one of the joys of working from home is that it's in Hurst. When she and Andrew were looking to move from Brighton, the surrounding countryside, nearby train station and excellent schools were all draws to the village. "One additional joy has been finding so many lovely, friendly people here," she said. Helen's talent is in rhyming couplets, a flair she discovered in a Brighton pub when she and a friend created limericks which grew bawdier as the evening progressed! Having been treated to hearing a few, delivered with a broad West Country accent, a lewd Pam Ayres comes to mind! However, it's not this author that Helen matches best but former Children's Laureate Julia Donaldson. Donaldson herself was hugely influenced by Edward Lear, particularly with her book *The Snail and the Whale*, and Helen clearly shares the talent for both rhyme and rhythm.

I ask Helen if she sees herself writing in ten years' time. "Definitely," she replies. "The Witch with an Itch, my first book, was published in my late forties. It's never too late!"

Year 11 students get work experience

By Nicki Burston

The Year 11 students are back in school after a week in industry. Mrs Cutress, Work Related Learning Coordinator, is delighted that all the students were completely engaged in the experience, taking part in all activities offered to them.

A huge thank you to all the organisations who hosted our students, from the Gatwick Police to Huddlestone Farm, from Cancer Research to Ricardo, from Vickers & Hopkins to Parr Motorsport, from Cherry Tree Kennels to Three Bridges Primary, from Network Rail to The Grand Hotel and every other organisation who made our students feel completely valued and useful.

Students have been offered weekend jobs and apprenticeships as a result of the fantastic week and they have come back into school motivated and inspired to study hard and achieve the results they need to follow their dreams. Louie Garnett (pictured), Head Boy, who went to London to work at Cancer Research, said: "It was the most amazing thing I have ever done!"



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Steve Whitehead

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The view of Wolstonbury Hill from our house

Favourite ice cream flavour?

Carluccio's Bitter Chocolate

Favourite holiday destination?

Italy

How many houses have you lived in?

In my life - six

Your most enjoyable event in the village?

Both the Fair and the Festival equally

Who do you share a house with?

Wendy and our dog Bella

Song you play the most?

Are you going with me? by Pat Metheny

Mac or PC?

Both

Your most frequented village shop?

The Co-op (hopefully soon)

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Win Holiday on Ice tickets for new show: BELIEVE



The world-renowned show, Holiday on Ice, which has been running for more than 72 years, will be returning to The Brighton Centre in January 2017 with new spectacular show – BELIEVE.

Directed and choreographed by Olympic and four time world champion Christopher Dean, BELIEVE will open at The Brighton Centre on Wednesday 4th January and run until Sunday 8th January 2017.

The show is an incredibly exciting and fast paced production that tells the modern day story of the traditional Shakespeare classic about desire, jealousy and true love – Romeo and Juliet. With Olympic level choreographies combined with the best live music, beautiful décor, glamorous costumes and hi-tech special effects, BELIEVE is destined to become a show that will truly conquer hearts.

Tickets for Holiday on Ice: BELIEVE at The Brighton Centre are on sale now and are available from www.brightoncentre.co.uk or by contacting the box office on 0844 847 1538. Family and group discounts available.

Hurst Life has one family ticket to give away! To be in with a chance to grab this family ticket simply email your name and address to competition@hurstlife.co.uk before 18th November 2016.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Tickets are valid to see Holiday on Ice: BELIEVE at The Brighton Centre on Wednesday 4th January 2017 at 8pm only. Family ticket can be used by any combination of a total of four adults and children. At least one adult must be present. No purchase necessary. Tickets are non-exchangeable. Closing date for entries is 8th November, entries received after this date will not be counted. Winners will be required to collect their tickets from the box office on the night of the show. Any travel and accommodation is not included in the prize.



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HURST VILLAGE CINEMA

By David Saitch

On 3rd November we have an overlooked gem in the form of **American Splendour** (15). This terrifically witty film stars Paul Giametti giving an outstanding performance as the real life Harvey Pekar; a hospital orderly who passed his time writing wry stories about his very ordinary life. A chance encounter at a garage sale with the underground artist Robert Crumb led to his stories being turned into a comic book saga which became incredibly popular and made Pekar an unlikely folk hero, a comic book bard and a curmudgeon with a heart of gold. His appearances on the David Letterman show became the stuff of legend. This film is charming and exhilarating, both stylistically and for its entertaining portrayal of an everyman.

Then, on 18th November, we head to the Mediterranean sun for **A Bigger Splash** (15), a dazzling, sensuous portrait of desire, jealousy and rock 'n' roll. When a high-profile couple, a rock star and a filmmaker, take a rest break on a remote Italian island, their rest is disrupted by the sudden visit of an old friend and his sexy, yet mysterious, daughter. Suddenly, what was supposed to be an ideal getaway turns into a whirlwind of jealousy, passion and danger for everyone in the group. Bravura performance from Ralph Fiennes as the hedonistic motormouth record producer who shatters the Mediterranean peace.

Our Saturday Cinema on 26th November is the brilliantly well-rounded, fast and funny **Zootropolis** (PG), and we finish November on Sunday 27th with **Brooklyn** (12A), the moving story of a young Irish woman lured by the promise of America in the 1950s. She departs Ireland and the comfort of her mother's home for New York City where she finds love. But soon her new life is disrupted by her past, and she must choose between two countries and two lives.

Tickets for Thursday and Friday night films are £4 members/£6 non-members. Doors/Bar 7.30pm, Film 8pm. Tickets for Saturday and Sunday films are all £4. Doors/Bar 2.30pm, Film 3pm.

Tickets can be bought online at www.hurstfilms.com, at Mishon Mackay on Hurstpierpoint High Street or call us on 01273 835875.

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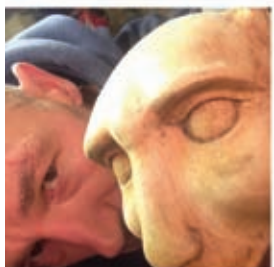
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What's on this month

AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE

AND ELSEWHERE

Regular events

- Sun **Sunday Afternoon Cream Tea Dance** – 2-4.30pm, nearly every Sunday
- Mon **The Sanctuary** – 9.30-11.30am, weekly (term time only) – a welcoming place where friendships can form over coffee and cake
- Tues **Afternoon Club** – 2-4pm, 1st Tuesday
Wolstonbury WI – 7.30 pm, 3rd Tuesday
Scottish Dancing – 7-10pm, weekly
- Fri **Star Dance School** – from 6.45pm, weekly
- Sat **Hurstpierpoint Dance Club** – 8pm, 3rd Saturday Ballroom and Latin dance, any skill level welcome

November

- 1st **Hurst Afternoon Club** – 2.15pm
Talk about Sussex Windmills (Pam 01273 831705)
- 8th **Hurstpierpoint Horticultural Society** – 7.45pm
Home Grown's Best - an illustrated talk by radio broadcaster John Negus
- 15th **Wolstonbury WI Meeting** – 7.45pm
- 19th **NSPCC Coffee Morning** - AM
(Contact Eileen Clark 01273 833395)
- 25th-
26th **Hurstpierpoint Christmas Fair**
Friday from 6.30pm, Sat 9.30am - 1pm
Get a head start with your Christmas present shopping organised by Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club. Over 30 stalls offering all your Gifts, Crafts and presents shopping. Grand Raffle, Children's Tombola and refreshments available. Admission 50p includes tea/coffee, children free.
- 26th **Hurstpierpoint & District Branch RNLI** – 7.30pm
The Dave Williams Swing Band – so put on your dancing shoes or just sit back and enjoy the music! There will also be a Grand Auction with some fantastic lots including a cruise! There will be a licenced bar and a raffle. Do come along and join us for an entertaining and fun evening! (Tickets £18, inc. buffet supper, available from Mishon Mackay – Jo Kaddish 01273 843857)
- 27th **Heber Opera High Tea** – 3pm
A sandwich of opera choruses and solo items performed by Heber Opera with a filling of a delicious homemade tea (Tickets £12 jenny.letton@btinternet.com, 01435 866737)

Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, Trinity Road BN6 9QT
www.hurstvillagecentre.org

- 6th **Musical Cheers Concert** – 2.30pm
Ditchling Village Hall
Songs for an Autumn Afternoon is a concert to raise funds for St Peter and St James. Julie Roberts, Ellen Hinton, Malin Maunder and Norman Armstrong with Herbie Flowers and Michael Hinton (Tickets, £7, Ditchling Post Office or 01273 965036)
- 11th **Friday Albourne Cinema Club** – 8pm
Bridget Jones's Baby starts at 8.30pm
Pop Up Pub open at 8pm (Tickets from The Sayers Common Community Shop or online at: www.TouringCinema.com)
- 12th **Quiz Night in aid of Cancer Research UK** – 7pm
Adastra Hall, Hassocks inc Ploughmans.
Teams of six. £7.50 each.
- 12th **Saturday Ramble** – 10am
Wolstonbury Hill Climb, Pyecombe Old A23 North End, 4.5mile walk (contact John on 01444 441530 or www.midsussexramblers.co.uk)
- 12th **ReMEber Charity Concert** – 7.30pm
Danny House, Hurstpierpoint
Songs of Love, Lust and Longing – jazz and ballads with the Lou Beckerman Quintet (Tickets £15 to include champagne or soft drinks at the interval – Janice Kent 01273 831733)
- 13th **Remembrance Parade** – 10.35am
Meet at South Ave Rec, parade to war memorial (Expect road closures and traffic delays)
- 19th **Rachel Fryer Concert** – 6pm
Danny House - pianist playing Bach's Goldberg Variations as part of Holy Trinity Concerts (Tel 01273 833000, www.dannyhouse.org.uk)
- 19th **Indoor Christmas Fair** – 10am-4pm
Jack Dunckley's, Kidders Lane, Henfield, Lots of lovely stalls brimming with gifts etc (www.jackdunckley.com)
- 25th **Hurstpierpoint Geographical & Historical Society**
8pm – Hurstpierpoint Guide Hall, Trinity Road
A Celebratory History of Christmas – talk by Andy Thomas (£3 for non-members info Bill Kent 01273 832280 w.kent123@btinternet.com)
- 26th **The Laurie Pop-Up Pub** – 7pm
St Lawrence School Hall – Pop-up Thai restaurant, live music: Tim Hodges, Talulah Ruby, Kieran Murray & Syd, DJs Emma Warner and Simon Marks

SAVE THE DATE: The Albourne Village Carols Friday 16th December followed by mulled wine and mince pies in Albourne Village Hall

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